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News & Views

University Newsletters

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# News & Views

## Governors State University

"You Can Change Your Life By  
Changing Your Attitude" -- Unknown

Suggested by Adalma Stevens, ITS

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### Keep Smart Start off the budget chopping block

Cheryl Poulous, program coordinator for GSU's Smart Start early childhood education program, has started a campaign to save it from the budget axe. "Governor Ryan has proposed cutting all grant funds to early childhood education programs. Children are our most precious resources. We can't leave this to chance," she said. Poulous has sent a letter to the parents of children in the program urging them to write or call their state representatives and senators to express their views on the proposed program cuts. In addition, she is organizing a rally at the state capitol in Springfield, Ill., on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. "It's my hope that the entire GSU community will join in to save the program from elimination." Time is running out. The budget is scheduled to be finalized in mid-May – the time to act is NOW. Call Poulous at 672-1790 to find out what you can do.

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### A place where queens are born

When the St. Patrick's Day Parade steps off tomorrow (March 16) at noon, one of our very own will be leading the way. Megan Eileen Connelly, an early childhood education major at Governors State, has been dubbed the official queen of the parade. Connelly of Western Springs was crowned queen of Chicago's St. Patrick's parade on Sunday February 17th at Plumber's Hall in Chicago. She was one of 130 other contestants. The queen rides in an authentic Irish jaunting cart in the parade. She is followed in the parade by her court riding in convertible cars. After the parade the queen and her court continue to make appearances on behalf of the parade.

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### We practice what we preach -- GSU scholarSHIP sets sail again

Professor Deborah Holdstein from the College of Arts and Sciences has been named Local Chair of the 2002 Conference on College Composition and Communication, a national organization whose meeting will take place at Chicago's Palmer House this month. Holdstein has tapped GSU colleagues Pat Koutouzos, Rashidah Muhammad, Becky Nugent and Todd Rohman to serve on the local committee. Additionally, Holdstein's most recent book (coedited with David Bleich of the University of Rochester), *Personal Effects: The Social Character of Scholarly Writing*, has just been published by Utah State University Press. Dr. Holdstein's essay, "Corporate Textbook Production, Electronic Resources, and the Responsible Curriculum," appears in *Beyond English, Inc.*, a volume-edited by David Downing, Claude Mark Hurlbert, and Paula Mathieu, and just published by Boynton-Cook/Heinemann press.

### **Come out and learn**

The Women's History Month Speakers Series is a rare opportunity to meet phenomenal women. We've had presentations by women's studies professor, Kimberly-Shehorn Martin and Mercedes Graf, a GSU professor who has been widely published on the topic of women physicians in the Civil War. This coming week speakers will be Hilary Burkinshaw, director, GSU Small Business Development Center and Rasheda Ali, daughter of boxing great Muhammad Ali and co-owner of Biaggio's Restaurants. Additionally, Queen Olive Brown Keys, the great-niece of Marcus Garvey and former proprietor of an African apparel boutique, will be a featured speaker. On Wednesday, March 20, in the Sherman Music Hall at 6:30 p.m., Burkinshaw will lead a panel discussion entitled "Women's Path to Financial Freedom Through Entrepreneurship." The business theme continues on Thursday, March 21, with a business strategy session led by Ali and Keys. Their workshop will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the GSU Hall of Honors. Refreshments will be served. Bring a friend.

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### **Can't touch this**

Olivia Cooper is Governors State's Employee of the Month (March). A secretary in the College of Business and Public Administration, she is known for her low-key demeanor and high octane efficiency.

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### **Nothing tastes as good as thin feels**

If you want to slim down for the coming warm months, call Lillian Jung in Human Resources on Extension 5305. She has organized a Weight Watchers At Work program at Governors State. A free Open House session will be held on Wednesday, March 20 at noon in E-Lounge. The cost for the program is only three payments of \$36.50.

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### **First Friday receptions. At least the Friday is right.**

GSU's initial "First Friday Reception" for faculty and staff was held on the last Friday in February. The next "First Friday Reception" will be hosted by the College of Health Professions on March 22 at 3:30 pm, the fourth Friday in March. Future receptions will be hosted by different university units. The idea for the receptions was initially generated by the GSU Provost Office to provide an informal forum for faculty, administration and staff to socialize and exchange ideas.

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### **Oops!**

As a result of last week's story (*Free Tuition... You Can't Beat It*) we wanted to clarify GSU's educational benefits. Tuition and fee waivers are granted to qualified GSU civil service and non-civil service employees for up to six credit hours each trimester. The children of employees who have been working at the university for 7 or more years are eligible for a 50% tuition waiver. For details and eligibility requirements, contact Human Resources on extension 4100.